

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 024253
ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

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PM/MC - MR. SMITH
S/S-O:TGMARTIN
NSC - MR. HUNTER

-----092735 302110Z /65

P R 302046Z JAN 78 ZFF6
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T STATE 024253

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PCAT, MASS, LY, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH MILITARY AIRCRAFT SALES TO LIBYA

REFS: PARIS 1230, STATE 77-259228 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM QUAI AT SUFFICIENTLY HIGH LEVEL
ON CLOSE-HELD BASIS THAT ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS APPROACHED
U.S. WITH A REQUEST THAT WE AUTHORIZE SALE TO LIBYA OF
G-222 MILITARY TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT WHICH CONTAIN ENGINES
MADE IN ITALY UNDER U.S. LICENSE. USG BELIEVES THAT IN
VIEW OF LIBYA'S ACTIVITIES IN THE CHAD, ITS POSITION
WITH RESPECT TO EGYPT, AND THE GENERAL NATURE OF LIBYA'S
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INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES, SALE OF MILITARY TRANSPORT AIR-
CRAFT TO LIBYA IS HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE. THE USG WOULD NOT
AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF U.S.-ORIGIN EQUIPMENT OF THIS KIND
TO LIBYA, AND HENCE
COULD NOT AUTHORIZE SALE OF EQUIPMENT OR MAJOR COMPONENTS
MANUFACTURED ABROAD UNDER U.S. LICENSE. ACCORDINGLY, WE
HAVE TOLD THE ITALIANS THAT DESPITE OUR DESIRE TO BUILD

ON TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION IN DEFENSE PRODUCTION, WE
MUST GIVE THEM A NEGATIVE RESPONSE ON THIS PARTICULAR
CASE.

2. EMBASSY SHOULD FURTHER INFORM THE QUAI THAT THE

ITALIANS HAVE REPEATEDLY TOLD US THAT THEY BELIEVE THAT
THE FRENCH WOULD BE PREPARED TO SELL TRANSALL AIRCRAFT
TO LIBYA IF THE ITALIAN FIRM IS NOT ABLE TO MAKE THE
SALE OF G-222'S. THE USG HAS NO EVIDENCE THAT FRANCE
IS CONTEMPLATING SUCH A SALE, AND WE HAVE SO INFORMED
THE ITALIANS. IF ITALIAN REPORTS WERE CORRECT, IT
WOULD PLACE U.S. -- AND AN ARMS RESTRAINT POLICY WHICH
WE BELIEVE THE GOF SHARES -- IN A VERY DIFFICULT
POSITION. VANCE

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DRAFTED BY S/S-O:SVALERGA:JP

APPROVED BY S/S-O:SVALERGA

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO WHITE HOUSE

S E C R E T STATE 024253

NODIS

FOR BRZEZINSKI ONLY

FOL RPT STATE 024253 ACTION PARIS INFO ROME TRIPOLI 30 JAN 78 QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 024253

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, PCAT, MASS, LY, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH MILITARY AIRCRAFT SALES TO LIBYA

REFS: PARIS 1230, STATE 77-259228 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY SHOULD INFORM QUAI AT SUFFICIENTLY HIGH LEVEL ON CLOSE-HELD BASIS THAT ITALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS APPROACHED U.S. WITH A REQUEST THAT WE AUTHORIZE SALE TO LIBYA OF G-222 MILITARY TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT WHICH CONTAIN ENGINES MADE IN ITALY UNDER U.S. LICENSE. USG BELIEVES THAT IN VIEW OF LIBYA'S ACTIVITIES IN THE CHAD, ITS POSITION
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WITH RESPECT TO EGYPT, AND THE GENERAL NATURE OF LIBYA'S INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES, SALE OF MILITARY TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT TO LIBYA IS HIGHLY UNDESIRABLE. THE USG WOULD NOT AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF U.S.-ORIGIN EQUIPMENT OF THIS KIND TO LIBYA, AND HENCE COULD NOT AUTHORIZE SALE OF EQUIPMENT OR MAJOR COMPONENTS MANUFACTURED ABROAD UNDER U.S. LICENSE. ACCORDINGLY, WE HAVE TOLD THE ITALIANS THAT DESPITE OUR DESIRE TO BUILD ON TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION IN DEFENSE PRODUCTION, WE MUST GIVE THEM A NEGATIVE RESPONSE ON THIS PARTICULAR CASE.

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ITALIANS HAVE REPEATEDLY TOLD US THAT THEY BELIEVE THAT THE FRENCH WOULD BE PREPARED TO SELL TRANSALL AIRCRAFT TO LIBYA IF THE ITALIAN FIRM IS NOT ABLE TO MAKE THE SALE OF G-222'S. THE USG HAS NO EVIDENCE THAT FRANCE IS CONTEMPLATING SUCH A SALE, AND WE HAVE SO INFORMED THE ITALIANS. IF ITALIAN REPORTS WERE CORRECT, IT WOULD PLACE U.S. -- AND AN ARMS RESTRAINT POLICY WHICH WE BELIEVE THE GOF SHARES -- IN A VERY DIFFICULT POSITION. VANCE

UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

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